

## II. ENROLLMENT CHANGE SUMMARIES AND TRENDS

### Net Acreage Increases and Decreases

#### *Net Enrollment Increase*

In 2002, Merced County's Williamson Act program continued to grow, adding 21,459 acres of prime farmland and 53,664 acres of nonprime land to its program. In two years Merced County enrolled 417,318 acres into its Williamson Act program. Newcomers Imperial, Sutter, and Mono County also increased the enrollment of their new programs. In 2002, Imperial County tripled and Sutter County quintupled the amount of acreage under their Williamson Act programs in 2001.

In 2003, Modoc County launched its new Williamson Act program and placed over 30,000 acres into contract. Merced County's drop in the Top 10 rankings could be an indication that its enrollment is stabilizing.

#### *Net Enrollment Decrease*

For 2002, Yolo County owes its top ranking in "Enrollment Decrease" to a significant amount of nonrenewal expirations and public acquisitions. Madera County's ranking in 2002 is attributable to the lost of over 8,461 acres through nonrenewal expirations.

In 2003, Kings and Fresno County topped the net decrease rankings due to contracted acreage lost through public acquisitions. Combined, Kings and Fresno County reported the loss of over 31,000 acres of contracted land due to public acquisitions. Of those 31,000 acres, over 96 percent was prime farmland, including 12,700 acres of FSZ contracted land in Kings County.

Statewide, the Williamson Act program grew by 215,699 acres during 2002 and 2003. In comparison, the Williamson Act program grew by 367,317 acres during 2000 and 2001.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 25, 26)

**Top 10 Counties with the Largest Enrollment Increase (Net)**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
1	1	Merced	75,123	n/a	1	Modoc*	30,730
2	2	Imperial	68,041	3	2	Sutter	12,620
6	3	Sutter	31,844	2	3	Imperial	12,440
4	4	Glenn	7,296	12	4	Monterey	7,912
3	5	San Luis Obispo	7,058	4	5	Glenn	7,686
9	6	Colusa	5,573	n/a	6	Lassen	5,655
n/a	7	San Benito	4,083	6	7	Colusa	4,118
17	8	Mariposa	3,998	1	8	Merced	4,040
8	9	Shasta	3,668	14	9	Mono	2,443
n/a	10	Kings	3,497	7	10	San Benito	2,040

\*Newly enrolled county as of January 1, 2003

**Top 10 Counties with the Largest Enrollment Decrease (Net)**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
n/a	1	Yolo	-15,367	n/a	1	Kings	-19,268
9	2	Madera	-7,579	16	2	Fresno	-10,633
4	3	Santa Clara	-4,834	n/a	3	San Luis Obispo	-4,818
n/a	4	Calaveras	-4,664	1	4	Yolo	-2,763
18	5	El Dorado	-4,189	9	5	Solano	-2,681
5	6	San Diego	-4,117	25	6	Tulare	-2,383
n/a	7	Marin	-4,004	8	7	Kern	-2,163
n/a	8	Kern	-3,896	n/a	8	Plumas	-1,674
6	9	Solano	-2,830	27	9	Tehama	-1,369
n/a	10	Lassen	-2,599	12	10	Alameda	-796

## New Enrollments

*A new enrollment is the execution of a contract, resulting in an increase in the amount of restricted acreage.*

New enrollments are filed with the anticipation of maintaining the contracted land in agriculture for at least ten years. As such, new enrollments may be seen as an indicator of agricultural stability in a particular location.

In 2002, the amount of new enrollments decreased by 230,780 acres statewide compared to 2001. The decrease in new enrollments between 2002 and 2001 is primarily due to a slow-down in Merced County's rate of new enrollment. Newcomers Merced, Imperial, and Sutter County led the Top 10 rankings for 2002. Santa Clara County's jump in the rankings was largely due to the enrollment of 9,748 acres of nonprime land under a single contract.

In 2003, the amount of new enrollments decreased by 143,725 acres statewide compared to 2002. Modoc County enrolled Williamson Act contracts for the first time in 2003. Glenn and Colusa County continue to outpace other counties in the amount of new enrollments under FSZ contract. Glenn and Colusa County together enrolled more land under FSZ contract during 2002 and 2003 than all the other counties combined during that same period.

Statewide, new enrollments averaged 131,386 acres annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, new enrollments in 2002 were above that annual average, while in 2003 they were slightly below. Since 1991, the greatest amount of new acreage was enrolled in 2001 (497,503) and the least in 1993 (60,193). The amount of new enrollments reported in 2002 and 2003 suggests that new enrollment levels are headed back down to pre-2001 averages. This represents a return to "normal" rates of increase after an enrollment increase spike from the five new counties.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 32, 33)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of New Enrollments**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
1	1	Merced	75,188	n/a	1	Modoc*	30,730
2	2	Imperial	68,605	3	2	Sutter	12,621
6	3	Sutter	31,844	2	3	Imperial	12,440
10	4	Kern	11,582	15	4	Monterey	7,912
34	5	Santa Clara	9,879	6	5	Glenn	7,745
4	6	Glenn	7,296	7	6	San Luis Obispo	4,131
3	7	San Luis Obispo	6,594	8	7	Colusa	4,118
9	8	Colusa	6,176	4	8	Kern	4,115
24	9	Kings	4,565	1	9	Merced	4,070
37	10	San Benito	4,193	21	10	Fresno	3,077

\*Newly enrolled county as of January 1, 2003

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of New Enrollments**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	100,343	North Coast & Mountain	37,595
South Coast & Desert	71,740	Sacramento Valley	30,797
Sacramento Valley	51,287	San Joaquin Valley	18,886
Bay & Central Coast	24,677	Bay & Central Coast	16,304
Foothill & Sierra	9,466	South Coast & Desert	13,628
North Coast & Mountain	9,209	Foothill & Sierra	5,789
Total	266,723	Total	122,998

## Farmland Security Zone Transfers

*A farmland security zone (FSZ) transfer is the rescission of an existing Williamson Act contract with the concurrent creation of a FSZ contract on the same land. FSZ transfers do not result in a net change to the amount of contracted acreage within a county.*

FSZ transfers signify a long-term agricultural commitment in particular areas. This commitment is made possible only upon deliberate action by the county in adopting the FSZ program and, subsequently, by the landowner in petitioning for the FSZ transfer.

In 2002, the amount of FSZ transfers increased by 32,126 acres statewide compared to 2001. FSZ transfers surged once again in Kern County, propelling Kern to the top of the rankings where it was in 2000. Kings County has been a permanent fixture on this Top 10 list, while Sierra County made its first appearance on the Top 10 list after joining the FSZ program in 2002. Of the 128,492 acres that were transferred into FSZ contracts statewide in 2002, over 92 percent was prime farmland.

In 2003, the amount of FSZ transfers decreased by 82,219 acres statewide compared to 2002. The amount of contracted land transferred into FSZ contracts in 2003 was the smallest since the program's inception in 1999. Lassen County's FSZ program skyrocketed in 2003, resulting in a FSZ program seventeen times larger than what it was in 2002. The growth of Lassen County's FSZ program in 2003 was accomplished primarily through FSZ transfers. Of the 46,273 acres that were transferred into FSZ contracts statewide in 2003, over 66 percent was prime farmland.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 27, 28)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of FSZ Transfers**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
3	1	Kern	43,988	n/a	1	Lassen	16,693
8	2	Kings	25,095	1	2	Kern	8,563
11	3	Colusa	17,270	7	3	Monterey	7,485
10	4	Fresno	14,069	5	4	Madera	3,959
1	5	Madera	9,406	11	5	Tehama	3,916
2	6	Glenn	7,144	8	6	San Joaquin	1,819
9	7	Monterey	3,510	10	7	Sierra	1,791
5	8	San Joaquin	2,365	2	8	Kings	780
4	9	Marin	2,233	6	9	Glenn	477
n/a	10	Sierra	1,701	9	10	Marin	398

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of FSZ Transfers**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	95,323	North Coast & Mountain	16,693
Sacramento Valley	25,071	San Joaquin Valley	15,122
Bay & Central Coast	5,743	Bay & Central Coast	7,882
Foothill & Sierra	1,701	Sacramento Valley	4,605
South Coast & Desert	653	Foothill & Sierra	1,791
North Coast & Mountain	0	South Coast & Desert	181
Total	128,492	Total	46,273

## Nonrenewal Initiations

*The initiation of nonrenewal on a contract by either the landowner or the local government.*

Nonrenewals are often filed with the anticipation of converting farmland to other uses. As such, nonrenewal trends may be seen as an indicator of likely farmland conversion in particular locations.

In 2002, the amount of acreage entering nonrenewal increased by 9,533 acres statewide compared to 2001. The Bay & Central Coast region, lead by Santa Clara and San Benito County, continued to hover near the top of the regional rankings. Nonrenewals in Stanislaus County spiked with the nonrenewal of over 5,200 acres of nonprime land.

In 2003, the amount of acreage entering nonrenewal increased by 5,423 acres statewide compared to 2002. San Joaquin County reported a large amount of prime land entering nonrenewal, accounting for nearly half of the total amount of land entering nonrenewal statewide.

Statewide, nonrenewal has been initiated on an average of 40,968 acres annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, nonrenewal initiations in 2002 and 2003 were well below that average. Since 1991, nonrenewal was initiated on the most contracted acreage in 1991 (145,755) and the least in 1997 (15,259).

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 34)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of Nonrenewal Initiations**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
22	1	Stanislaus	5,782	16	1	San Joaquin	14,945
16	2	Santa Clara	4,123	11	2	Placer	3,132
2	3	San Benito	2,417	1	3	Stanislaus	2,661
10	4	Kern	1,971	4	4	Kern	1,429
8	5	Santa Barbara	1,766	18	5	Calaveras	1,311
25	6	Ventura	1,203	15	6	Yolo	994
9	7	Tehama	1,143	5	7	Santa Barbara	784
n/a	8	Contra Costa	1,003	21	8	Solano	761
15	9	Fresno	908	12	9	Tulare	749
26	10	Amador	680	22	10	Napa	737

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of Nonrenewal Initiations**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	9,979	San Joaquin Valley	20,175
Bay & Central Coast	8,177	Foothill & Sierra	4,962
South Coast & Desert	3,424	Sacramento Valley	3,254
Sacramento Valley	2,310	Bay & Central Coast	1,481
Foothill & Sierra	1,619	South Coast & Desert	1,048
North Coast & Mountain	173	North Coast & Mountain	184
Total	25,681	Total	31,104

## Nonrenewal Expirations

*A nonrenewal expiration is the termination of a contract as a result of completing the nonrenewal process.*

By far, most contracts are terminated through nonrenewal expiration. Upon the expiration of a contract, the restrictions are removed and the property tax assessment, which has been gradually increasing from the Williamson Act level over the nonrenewal period, returns to its full market value.

In 2002, the amount of contracted land terminated through nonrenewal expirations decreased by 37,003 acres statewide compared to 2001. Nonrenewal expirations in Madera and Yolo County continued to surge in 2002. Madera County has gone from unranked (no nonrenewal expirations) in 2000, to Rank 4 in 2001, to Rank 1 in 2002. Yolo County has finished in the top three since 2000, losing nearly 30,000 acres through nonrenewal expiration during that three-year period.

In 2003, nonrenewal expirations decreased by 21,200 acres statewide compared to 2002. Solano County has made the Top 10 list in this category since 2000, losing 14,800 acres of contracted land through nonrenewal over the last four years. After three years in the top three, Yolo County dropped off the Top 10 chart for 2003.

Statewide, the amount of land terminated through nonrenewal expirations averaged 67,813 acres annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, nonrenewal expirations in 2002 and 2003 were well below that annual average. Since 1991, the most contracted acreage expired through nonrenewal in 1999 (118,391) and the least in 2003 (16,527).

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 35)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of Nonrenewal Expirations**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
4	1	Madera	8,461	5	1	Solano	3,073
3	2	Yolo	5,046	17	2	Tehama	1,750
22	3	El Dorado	4,387	14	3	Butte	1,647
2	4	Kern	3,487	6	4	San Joaquin	1,638
7	5	Solano	3,072	10	5	Kings	1,466
9	6	San Joaquin	2,627	1	6	Madera	1,362
16	7	Calaveras	1,581	n/a	7	Siskiyou	853
5	8	Sacramento	1,422	25	8	Tulare	830
n/a	9	Nevada	1,412	n/a	9	San Benito	726
11	10	Kings	854	16	10	Fresno	554

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of Nonrenewal Expirations**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	16,020	Sacramento Valley	7,102
Sacramento Valley	10,259	San Joaquin Valley	5,931
Foothill & Sierra	8,284	Bay & Central Coast	1,254
South Coast & Desert	1,349	North Coast & Mountain	893
Bay & Central Coast	1,243	Foothill & Sierra	814
North Coast & Mountain	571	South Coast & Desert	533
Total	37,727	Total	16,527

## Cancellations

*A cancellation is the immediate termination of a contract by a landowner, which requires payment of a cancellation fee and board/council approval based on rigorous findings.*

State law limits the use of cancellation to narrow conditions. Due to the specific findings required for a board or council to approve a contract cancellation, only a small fraction of yearly contract terminations occur as a result of cancellation.

In 2002, the amount of contracted land terminated through cancellation decreased by 402 acres statewide compared to 2001. The 161 acres cancelled statewide in 2002 is the second smallest amount reported since in 1987. Fresno County reported cancellations by the City of Clovis for residential development. Kern County reported a cancellation of 30 acres for an electrical generating facility, resulting in \$625,000 in cancellation fees. A 20-acre residential development within the City of San Jose resulted in \$859,375 in cancellation fees, as reported by Santa Clara County.

In 2003, cancellations increased by 349 acres statewide compared to 2002. Sacramento County reported the first cancellation by the newly incorporated City of Elk Grove for residential development. The City of Elk Grove cancellation resulted in a cancellation fee of \$775,000. In Placer County, the City of Lincoln approved a cancellation for senior housing, resulting in a \$87,500 cancellation fee.

Statewide, an average of 1,477 acres were cancelled annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, the amounts of contracted land cancelled in 2000 and in 2001 were well below that average.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 37, 38)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of Cancellations**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
2	1	Fresno	67	n/a	1	Riverside	165
8	2	Kern	49	n/a	2	Sacramento	155
6	3	Kings	24	1	3	Fresno	128
n/a	4	Santa Clara	21	2	4	Kern	39
				n/a	5	Placer	23
				n/a	6	Sutter	1

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of Cancellations**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
San Joaquin Valley	140	San Joaquin Valley	167
Bay & Central Coast	21	South Coast & Desert	165
Foothill & Sierra	0	Sacramento Valley	156
North Coast & Mountain	0	Foothill & Sierra	23
Sacramento Valley	0	Bay & Central Coast	0
South Coast & Desert	0	North Coast & Mountain	0
Total	161	Total	510

## Public Acquisitions

*A public acquisition is the immediate termination of an enforceable restriction through eminent domain, or in lieu of eminent domain, by a public agency. The public agency may need to make specific findings and notify the Director of Conservation.*

Williamson Act contracted land is acquired by public entities for a wide range of public improvements. Wildlife habitat, water resource management, public open space, and schools are common reasons for publicly acquiring contracted land. Before acquiring contracted lands, public agencies must make findings that there is no other nearby noncontracted land available for the purpose, and that the lower cost of contracted land did not influence their decision.

In 2002, the amount of contracted land publicly acquired increased by 29,984 acres compared to 2001. The Wildlife Conservation Board publicly acquired over 12,000 acres of contracted land in Yolo County in 2002. In Santa Clara County, open space districts acquired most of the contracted land for open space purposes.

In 2003, the amount of contracted land publicly acquired increased by 4,816 acres compared to 2002. In Kings County the Westlands Water District acquired 13,252 acres of contracted land, including 12,797 acres of FSZ land. Kings County also reported the acquisition of 3,068 acres of contracted land by the Castaic Lake Water Agency. In San Luis Obispo County, the California Department of Fish and Game was solely responsible for the acquisitions.

Statewide, public acquisitions averaged 23,232 acres annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, the amount of contracted land acquired for public purposes in 2002 and 2003 was more than double that annual average. Although 2002 set a new record high (since 1991) for the amount of contracted acres publicly acquired, that short-lived record was toppled in 2003.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 39, 40)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of Public Acquisitions**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
14	1	Yolo	12,823	17	1	Kings	17,979
n/a	2	Santa Clara	9,480	6	2	Fresno	13,102
5	3	Kern	8,991	n/a	3	San Luis Obispo	9,411
1	4	San Diego	8,817	3	4	Kern	6,643
n/a	5	Lake	1,675	2	5	Santa Clara	2,221
3	6	Fresno	1,512	19	6	Solano	1,467
16	7	Alameda	1,306	8	7	Tulare	1,174
4	8	Tulare	1,191	1	8	Yolo	778
n/a	9	Siskiyou	980	13	9	Stanislaus	363
2	10	Colusa	633	7	10	Alameda	360

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of Public Acquisitions**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
Sacramento Valley	13,645	San Joaquin Valley	39,444
San Joaquin Valley	12,261	Bay & Central Coast	12,023
Bay & Central Coast	11,320	Sacramento Valley	2,559
South Coast & Desert	8,818	North Coast & Mountain	46
North Coast & Mountain	2,798	South Coast & Desert	10
Foothill & Sierra	424	Foothill & Sierra	0
Total	49,265	Total	54,081

## City Annexations

*A city annexation is the succession or immediate termination of a contract upon the annexation of contracted land by a city. A valid city protest is required to terminate a contract, as determined by the local agency formation commission.*

Certain contracts executed prior to 1991 may be terminated through city annexation only if the city filed a valid protest upon county notification at the time of contract formation. At present the total amount of contracted acreage covered by protested contracts statewide is unknown.

In 2002, the amount of contracted land annexed by cities increased by 2,419 acres compared to 2001. Within Santa Clara County, the City of Gilroy annexed 1,357 acres consisting mainly of nonprime contracted land. The cities of Corona and Murrieta succeeded to contracted land from Riverside County.

In 2003, the amount of contracted land annexed by cities decreased by 376 acres compared to 2002. The City of Portola succeeded to 1,865 acres of nonprime contracted land in Plumas County. Alameda County reported annexations of nonprime contracted land by the City of Dublin (475 acres) and the City of Livermore (29 acres).

Statewide, an average of 3,489 acres of contracted land have been annexed to cities annually from 1991 to 2001. In comparison, the amount of contracted acreage annexed to cities in 2002 mirrored that average, while in 2003 it was slightly below.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 41, 42)

Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of City Annexations

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
n/a	1	Santa Clara	1,377	n/a	1	Plumas	1,865
6	2	Riverside	617	8	2	Alameda	505
n/a	3	Kern	453	4	3	Tulare	289
1	4	Tulare	415	2	4	Riverside	195
2	5	Stanislaus	178	7	5	Kings	152
n/a	6	Fresno	171	5	6	Stanislaus	43
n/a	7	Kings	139	n/a	7	Solano	31
n/a	8	Alameda	102	10	8	San Joaquin	20
n/a	9	Madera	16				
3	10	San Joaquin	10				

Regional Ranking by the Amount of City Annexations

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
Bay & Central Coast	1,479	Foothill & Sierra	1,865
San Joaquin Valley	1,381	Bay & Central Coast	505
South Coast & Desert	617	San Joaquin Valley	504
Foothill & Sierra	0	South Coast & Desert	195
North Coast & Mountain	0	Sacramento Valley	31
Sacramento Valley	0	North Coast & Mountain	0
Total	3,477	Total	3,101



## Net Adjustments

*Adjustments may be the reconciliation of errors in records or previous reports, re-mappings or re-surveys, lot line adjustments, and/or parcel divisions.*

Annually accounting for all of the changes that occur to the 16 million acre Williamson Act program is a big task performed by local governments. The net adjustments category is partly a byproduct of the elimination of errors that occur in local government enrollment data. The category is also a byproduct of imperfect forms that local governments must use to report enrollment data.

San Diego, Calaveras, and Marin County's ranking in 2002 is the result of making adjustments to reconcile errors in previous reports. Santa Clara County's ranking in 2002 was influenced by a compliance audit by the California Department of Finance.

In 2003, Lassen and Santa Clara County's ranking is the result of making adjustments to reconcile errors in previous reports. Adjustments in Yolo County were influenced by a compliance audit by the California Department of Finance.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 44, 45)

**Top 10 Counties with the Greatest Amount of Adjustments (Net)**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	Acres	Ranking		County	Acres
2001	2002			2002	2003		
n/a	1	San Diego	5,314	5	1	Lassen	3,084
n/a	2	Calaveras	-4,192	4	2	Santa Clara	2,369
n/a	3	Marin	-4,004	10	3	Yolo	-1,492
n/a	4	Santa Clara	-3,788	n/a	4	Amador	1,471
13	5	Lassen	-3,310	17	5	Lake	1,319
18	6	Kern	-2,498	3	6	Marin	1,180
5	7	Mendocino	-1,383	9	7	San Luis Obispo	785
7	8	Madera	-804	n/a	8	Shasta	-545
10	9	San Luis Obispo	740	14	9	Napa	-518
1	10	Yolo	634	6	10	Kern	404

**Regional Ranking by the Amount of Adjustments (Net)**

2002		2003	
Region	Acres	Region	Acres
Bay & Central Coast	-7,038	North Coast & Mountain	4,157
North Coast & Mountain	-4,537	Bay & Central Coast	3,573
South Coast & Desert	4,288	Sacramento Valley	-1,623
Foothill & Sierra	-4,083	Foothill & Sierra	1,476
San Joaquin Valley	-3,985	South Coast & Desert	-258
Sacramento Valley	374	San Joaquin Valley	241
Total	-14,981	Total	7,566

## Contract Termination Trends

Statutorily, there are five ways to terminate a Williamson Act contract: nonrenewal, cancellation, public acquisition, city annexation, and easement exchange. For reporting purposes, acreage may also be removed on paper via "Net Adjustments".

**Nonrenewal:** The nonrenewal process is the most significant mechanism for the termination of Williamson Act contracted land. Since 1991, more contracted acreage has been terminated through nonrenewal expiration than all of the other methods of termination combined. Statewide, an average of 61,533 acres of contracted land has expired annually from 1991 to 2003. Over that time period, the greatest amount of contracted acreage expired in 1999 (118,391 acres) and the least in 2003 (16,527 acres).

**Public acquisition:** Since 1991, more contracted acreage has been terminated through public acquisitions than through city annexations, cancellations, and easement exchanges combined. Statewide, an average of 27,607 acres of contracted land was acquired for public purposes each year from 1991 to 2003. Over that time period, the greatest amount of contracted acreage was acquired in 2003 (54,081 acres) and the least in 1998 (9,493 acres).

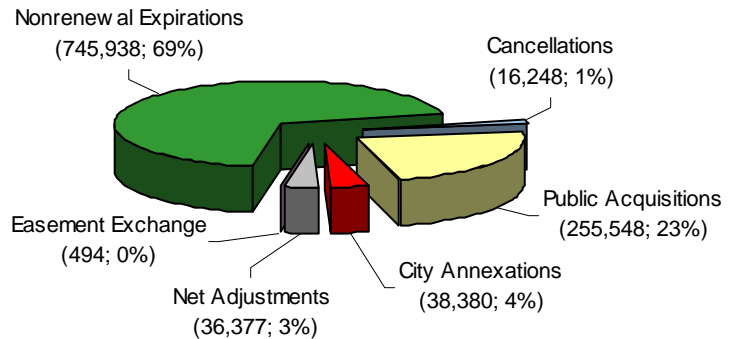
**Net adjustments:** A "Net Adjustment" is not a true method of contract termination. Since 1994, the largest net adjustment occurred in 1995 (20,239 acres removed) and the smallest in 1996 (4,394 acres added).

**City annexation:** The actual amount of contracted land terminated through annexation is overstated since this analysis assumes that affected contracts are terminated, not succeeded to, upon annexation. Statewide, an average of 3,458 acres of contracted land was annexed by cities each year from 1991 to 2003. Over that time period, the greatest amount of contracted land was annexed to cities in 2000 (9,961 acres) and the least in 1992 (863 acres).

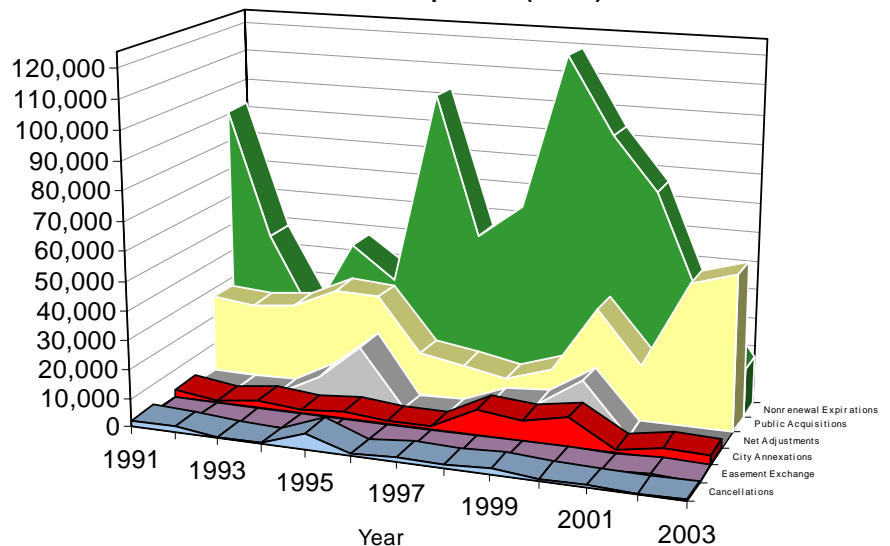
**Cancellation:** Statewide, an average of 1,301 acres was cancelled annually from 1991 to 2003. Since 1991, the greatest amount of acreage was cancelled in 1995 (5,694 acres) and the least in 1994 (155 acres).

**Easement Exchange:** This method of contract termination became available in 1998. As of 2003, three Williamson Act easement exchanges have taken place. In those three exchanges, Williamson Act contracts were rescinded on 494 acres in exchange for the placement of agricultural conservation easements on 579 acres.

**Cumulative Acres Terminated By Category: 1991-2003  
(Acres; Percentage)**



**Termination Trend Comparison (Acres): 1991-2003**



*Note: The Department of Conservation's data on net adjustments only reaches back to 1994*

## Cumulative Nonrenewal Trends

*Cumulative nonrenewal acreage refers to the total amount of acreage undergoing the nine-year phase out of contract status at any one time.*

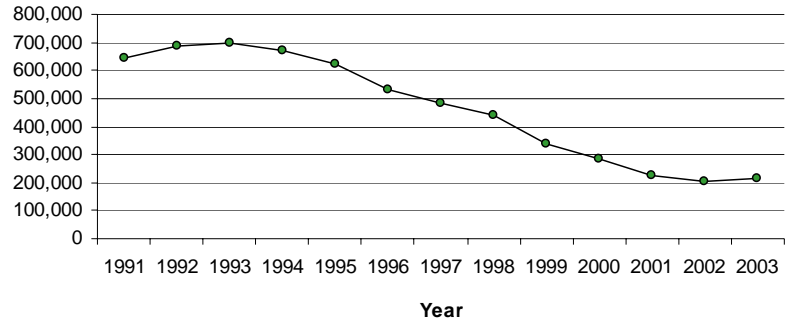
Statewide cumulative nonrenewal acreage peaked at nearly 700,000 acres (record high) in 1993 and then began a steady decline that ended in 2003. In 1993, statewide cumulative nonrenewal acreage made up 4.4 percent of the total statewide enrollment; in 2003 it was 1.3 percent. Controlling for changes to total statewide enrollment, in 1993 there were 22 acres of continuing contracted acres per cumulative nonrenewal acre; in 2003 there were 76 acres.

The middle graphic shows the prime/nonprime composition of the statewide cumulative nonrenewal acreage. Notably, the amount of cumulative nonrenewal acreage in both the prime and nonprime categories has been declining. Research has also shown that the proportion of prime/nonprime acreage among the cumulative nonrenewal acreage is similar to the statewide enrollment proportions. For example, in 2001 prime land represented 36 percent of the total statewide enrollment and 31 percent of the cumulative nonrenewal acreage.

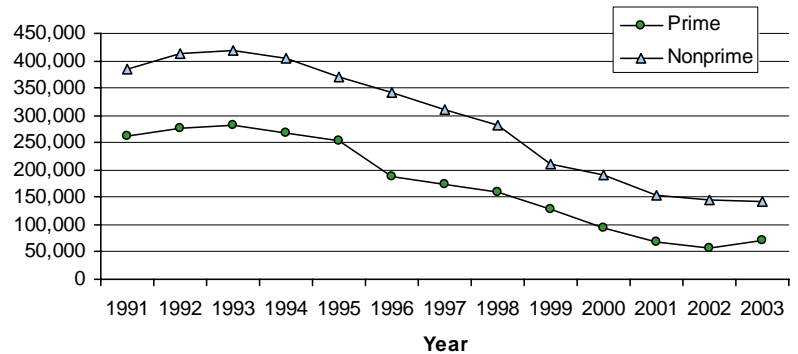
The bottom graphic shows the decline in statewide cumulative nonrenewal acreage from a different perspective. In 1994, statewide nonrenewal expirations surpassed statewide nonrenewal initiations for the first time since 1986. This transition kicked off a 9-year decline in statewide cumulative nonrenewal acreage that ended in 2003.

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 29)

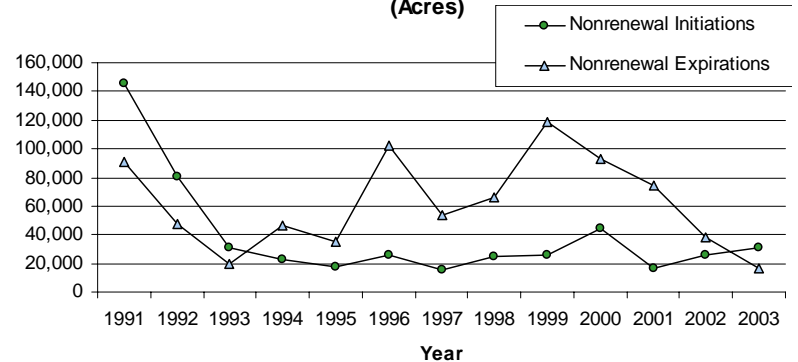
Statewide Cumulative Nonrenewal Acreage: 1991-2003



Statewide Cumulative Nonrenewal Acreage 1991-2003  
Prime v. Nonprime



Nonrenewal Initiations v. Nonrenewal Expirations: 1991-2003  
(Acres)



## Cumulative Nonrenewal Trends

*Cumulative nonrenewal acreage refers to the total amount of acreage undergoing the nine-year phase out of contract status at any one time.*

In 2002, Orange County easily maintained its top ranking statewide in the percentage of its enrollment that is under the nonrenewal process. In less than 10 years, Orange County could see its Williamson Act program shrink to 4,500 acres. Orange County's Williamson Act program peaked in popularity in the early 1970s when it had over 77,000 acres under contract.

In 2003, counties in the Foothill & Sierra and South Coast & Desert Region continued to dominate the Top 10 rankings. Both San Bernardino and Placer County added to their cumulative nonrenewal acreage. San Bernardino County's Williamson Act program, which reported over 22,000 acres in the late 1980s, is down to 6,584 acres (including the 1,487 acres under nonrenewal).

Cross-Reference: Appendix C (p. 29)

**Top 10 Counties with the Largest Percentage of Enrollment Under Nonrenewal**

2002				2003			
Ranking		County	%	Ranking		County	%
2001	2002			2002	2003		
1	1	Orange	64.60	1	1	Orange	64.54
3	2	San Bernardino	20.94	2	2	San Bernardino	22.59
5	3	Placer	14.23	3	3	Placer	20.74
6	4	Plumas	7.45	4	4	Plumas	7.60
4	5	El Dorado	5.23	5	5	El Dorado	4.76
8	6	Riverside	3.83	13	6	San Joaquin	4.61
10	7	Amador	3.80	8	7	Sacramento	3.58
9	8	Sacramento	3.39	9	8	Contra Costa	3.28
21	9	Contra Costa	2.78	6	9	Riverside	2.91
11	10	Mendocino	2.52	14	10	Santa Clara	2.78

**Regional Ranking by Percentage of Enrollment Under Nonrenewal**

2002		2003	
Region	%	Region	%
Foothill & Sierra	2.80	Foothill & Sierra	3.17
South Coast & Desert	2.28	South Coast & Desert	2.29
Bay & Central Coast	1.34	Bay & Central Coast	1.39
North Coast & Mountain	1.20	San Joaquin Valley	1.18
Sacramento Valley	1.18	North Coast & Mountain	1.10
San Joaquin Valley	0.98	Sacramento Valley	1.02

## Farmland Security Zones

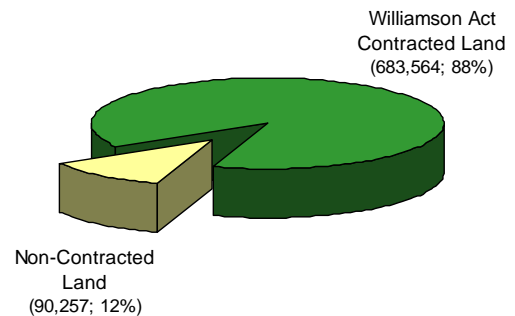
*In August 1998, the farmland security zone (FSZ) provisions were enacted with the passage of Senate Bill 1182. The FSZ provisions offer landowners greater property tax reductions in return for a contractual commitment of at least 20 years.*

As enacted in August of 1998, the FSZ provisions allowed for the creation of a FSZ contract only through the rescission of an existing Williamson Act contract. That requirement was changed on January 1, 2000, thus allowing non-contracted land to go straight into an FSZ contract. The graphic at right shows that most (88 percent) of the existing FSZ acreage was created through the rescission of existing Williamson Act contracts.

As of January 1, 2003, 19 counties had a percentage of their Williamson Act land under FSZ contract. This percentage ranged from 38 percent (Kings) to 0.02 percent (Santa Barbara), with an average of 8 percent. Regionally, only the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley have greater than 2 percent of their total amount of contracted land under FSZ contract: 5.7 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively.

The FSZ program has grown by an average of 152,559 acres each year since its enactment. Since 1999 the FSZ program added the most acreage in 2000 (229,378 acres) and the least in 2003 (54,454 acres).

**The Origin of Existing Farmland Security Zone Contracts  
(Acres; Percentage)**



**Farmland Security Zone Acreage and  
Percentage of Total Enrollment By County\***

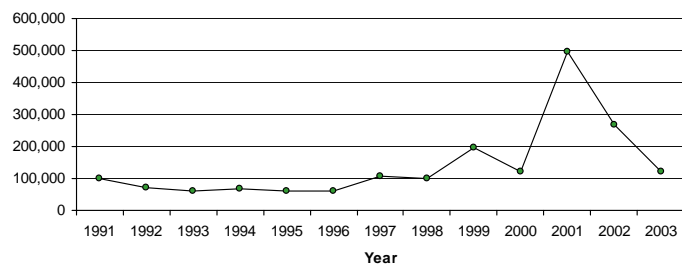
County	FSZ Acres	Percent of Total
Kings	259,021	37.93%
Glenn	83,227	20.34%
Colusa	55,612	17.75%
Marin	16,039	15.81%
San Joaquin	60,130	11.10%
Madera	53,603	9.69%
Sierra	3,493	8.62%
Kern	139,638	8.15%
Lassen	18,883	6.13%
Plumas	4,595	5.54%
Monterey	29,177	3.82%
Ventura	2,295	1.79%
Tehama	11,356	1.42%
Fresno	15,939	1.02%
Tulare	9,039	0.81%
Placer	307	0.69%
Santa Cruz	123	0.63%
El Dorado	185	0.50%
Santa Barbara	133	0.02%

\*As of January 1, 2003

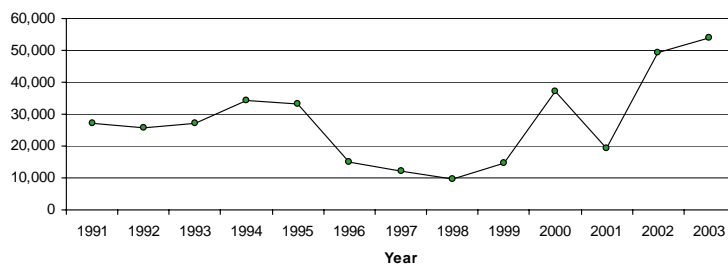
## II. ENROLLMENT CHANGE SUMMARIES AND TRENDS

## TRENDS OVER THE DECADE

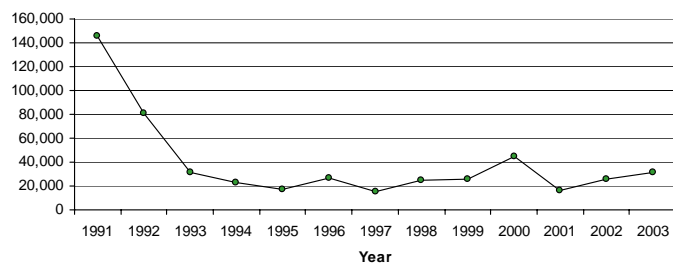
**New Enrollments (Acres): 1991-2003**



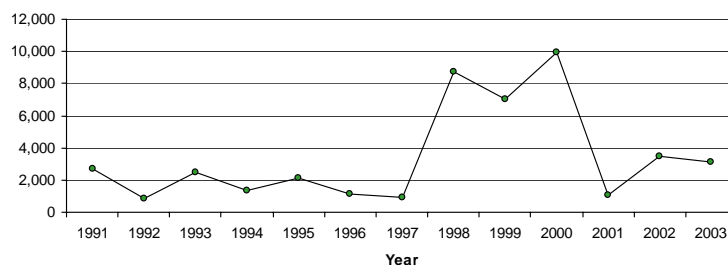
**Public Acquisitions (Acres): 1991-2003**



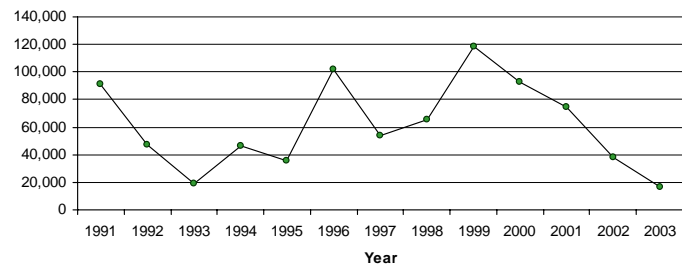
**Nonrenewal Initiations (Acres): 1991-2003**



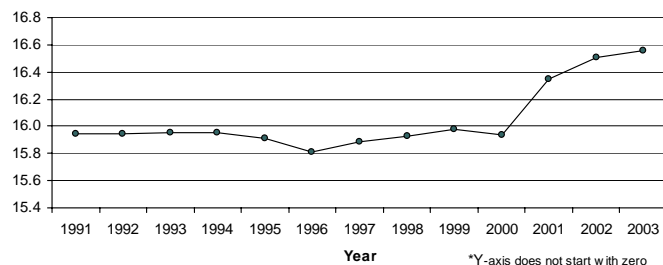
**City Annexations (Acres): 1991-2003**



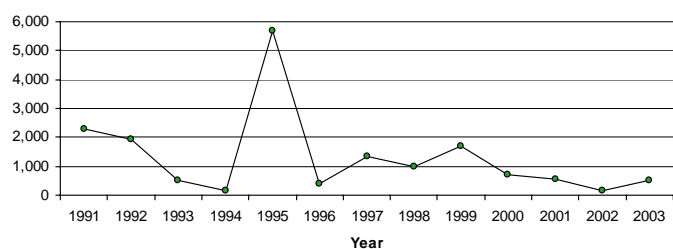
**Nonrenewal Expirations (Acres): 1991-2003**



**Total Reported Acreage (Millions): 1991-2003\***



**Cancellations (Acres): 1991-2003**



**Open Space Subvention Act Payments (Millions): 1991-2003**

